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November 24, 2004

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS WITH SIX COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOR HATE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVE SERVICES

(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED; 3 VOTES REQUIRED)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve six agreements to provide Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative (HCVAI) services and programs between the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, the South Asian Network, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Center), substantially similar to Exhibit 1, to assist individuals and communities in responding to and preventing hate crimes and hate incidents, in the amount of \$37,500 per agency, for the period of Board approval through June 30, 2005, for a combined maximum total of \$225,000.
2. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations, or his designee, to execute these agreements, on a sole source basis, approved as to form by County Counsel, effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2005, with the option to renew for twelve additional months, to June 30, 2006, at the maximum contract sum of \$37,500 per agency. Thus, the combined maximum County obligation for the period of Board approval through the maximum term of June 30, 2006, is \$450,000.

PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION/JUSTIFICATION

The purpose of the recommended action is to ensure that the Commission can continue to provide critically needed hate crime victim assistance and advocacy services through its HCVAAL partner agencies.

Prior to 1999, when the Commission on Human Relations established the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative (Hate Crime Victim Initiative), most of the groups targeted by hate crime in Los Angeles County lacked a community organization with the capacity to provide direct assistance to hate crime victims, to advocate for community support, to provide for the needs of hate crime victims in a culturally and/or linguistically competent manner, or to advocate for policy changes aimed at reducing hate crime.

The action previously authorized by your Board has resulted in notable success in the types and quality of training, programs, and services provided to County residents through these agencies, producing significant growth in the community's capacity to support hate crime victims, and to engage in educational activities that reduce hate crime.

The skills and expertise offered by these agencies are highly specialized and unique and have developed through their participation in a variety of training and developmental opportunities related to the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative. As such, they are an integral part of the Initiative.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended Board actions furthers the implementation of Strategic Plan programmatic goal 8 regarding "Public Safety" in that they provide an essential component in a comprehensive countywide response plan for terrorism, addressing the needs of those County residents who are most at-risk for scapegoating and hate violence in the aftermath of an attack anywhere in the U.S. The requested actions are also consistent with the County Organizational goal 2, "Organizational Effectiveness," by ensuring that service delivery systems for hate crime victims are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented (capacity-building component of the project).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient funds for the recommended agreements are already included in the Board-approved Human Relations Commission's FY 2004-05 budget. The Commission will request appropriate funding as part of the FY 2005-06 budget to cover the option to renew.

Agency	Dec. 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006	Totals
APALC	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500	\$ 75,000
CHIRLA	37,500	37,500	75,000
LAGLC	37,500	37,500	75,000
MPAC	37,500	37,500	75,000
SAN	37,500	37,500	75,000
SCLC	37,500	37,500	75,000
Totals	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000

In return for full funding in the amount of \$37,500 per agency for approximately seven months, as opposed to the standard twelve month period, each agency will provide additional deliverables (e.g., additional staff will attend eight to ten three-hour workshops on media advocacy training and technical assistance, and participate in the County's "Get Real LA!" zerohour collaborative that provides intensive human relations services to targeted schools).

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On April 25, 2000, your Board approved funding for the implementation of the Commission's Hate Crime Victim Assistance Initiative (HCVAAI). Thereafter, and as a result of a competitive Request for Proposals process, four (4) community-based agencies were selected as service providers. Pursuant to these agreements, the Commission was to provide each agency (the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference) with funding to hire a full-time staff member dedicated to work in collaboration with Commission staff to carry out the Hate Crime Victim Initiative, with the goal of self-sustainability for each agency by the termination of the agreements. The total amount provided to each agency was \$37,500, totaling \$150,000 for the four agencies, through the expiration of the contracts on June 30, 2001.

Upon expiration of the agreements in July 2001, the Commission recognized that the agencies had not reached self-sustainability, despite efforts by the Commission and the agencies to obtain grant funding from foundation and other governmental sources. (In 2002, a grant was received from The California Endowment for needs assessment and capacity-building for the Hate Crime Initiative, but thus far no funding has been received for the single staff position at each agency.) In July 2001, the Commission, believing it had Board-delegated authority to renew the contracts,¹ instead utilized purchase orders

¹ Although parts of the Board letter of April 14, 2000 (attached) contain typographical errors and omissions which inadvertently suggest otherwise, the Commission's understanding was that it sought and

approved by ISD to continue to fund each agency at the original contract amount of \$37,500 per agency. Thus, each of these four agencies has received approximately \$100,000 in additional funding over the past three fiscal years.

In December 2001, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the 1200% increase in hate crime targeting those County residents who appeared to their attackers as Muslim or Middle Eastern, your Board authorized additional funding for the Hate Crime Victim Initiative through the Security Action Plan. This allowed for the addition of two (2) additional community-based agencies, the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) and the South Asian Network (SAN), to fill the gap in meeting the needs of hate crime victims in those communities. Those agreements provided those two agencies with \$51,000 each for a seven-month period. Moreover, the other four agencies were provided with additional funding, ranging from approximately \$12,000 total to \$31,000, to expand their staffing capacity to respond to the post 9/11 rise in requests for assistance and education regarding hate crime and discrimination.

In June, 2002, upon expiration of the agreements with the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the South Asian Network, the Commission similarly utilized purchase orders to continue the funding of services. Thus, each of these two agencies also received approximately \$75,000 in funding over the past two years.

By entering into sole source agreements with these agencies, the Commission will avoid disruption to the development and operation of the County's hate crime/hate incident response infrastructure, and continue to work with the agencies toward the goal of self sustainability. However, the Commission does recognize that there may be other community-based organizations with proven track records and reputations for providing culturally and linguistically effective assistance for hate crime victims and their communities. For this reason, the Commission intends to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2005.

The agreement attached as Exhibit 1 has been approved as to form by County Counsel. The Chief Administrative Office has reviewed the proposed actions.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

On April 25, 2000, your Board authorized the Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission the authority to execute a multi-year agreement with the Hate Crime Victim Assistance and Advocacy Initiative partner community-

obtained Board authority to renew the contracts until the end of FY 2003-04. The Board letter of April 14, 2000 states under the "Purpose of Recommended Action" section that "[t]he term of the initial contract will be for the remainder of this fiscal year, and the following contracts shall be for twelve (12) month periods, with an option to renew for two additional twelve (12) month periods." Under the "Fiscal Impact" section, it states "Over three years, up to \$450,000 will be appropriated..."

based organizations. This action requests a similar delegation of authority to extend the agreements one additional fiscal year, if necessary, to ensure that the County's existing system for effectively responding to hate crimes and hate incidents remains intact.

IMPACT ON CURRENT PROJECTS

This action will provide the Commission and the County with the assurance of the ongoing availability of community resources that have the training and the capacity to work on the community's behalf in preventing hate crime and promoting positive intergroup relations, through workshop, seminars, media advocacy and public education efforts. Additionally, it will strengthen the community's capability for directly responding to and providing assistance and support to County residents who find themselves victims of hate incidents and hate crimes. In this way, the overall capacity of the County to leverage its limited fiscal resources for maintaining a position of preparedness is enhanced.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin S. Toma
Executive Director
Commission on Human Relations

RST:ES

Attachments (2)

- HCVAAL Partners Service Agreement
- April 25, 2000 Board Motion

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller